



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,016	07/10/2003	Aguinaldo Vicenza	17906	3072

26794 7590 06/22/2004

TYCO ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
4550 NEW LINDEN HILL ROAD, SUITE 450
WILMINGTON, DE 19808

EXAMINER

PATEL, TULSIDAS C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/617,016

Applicant(s)

VICENZA ET AL.

Examiner

T. C. Patel

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/22/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

General Status

1. This is a First Action on the Merits. Claims 1-25 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maue et al. (US 5,995,380).

Maue et al. in figures 1-6, discloses an electrical fuse box 11, comprising a frame 41, a plurality of connector modules 27, pre-assembled within the frame, the connector modules are configured for electrically engaging wires 13, an upper cover 45 and a lower cover 43. For claim 2 and 9, fuses and circuit breakers are shown at 17 and 19, some of the fuses are capable of being J-fuses (no structure of J-fuses disclosed), for claims 3, 4, 10 and 11, the connector contacts are seen in figures 1 and 6, the contacts make connection with electrical components

Art Unit: 2839

63, 65. For claims 5, 6, 12 and 13, the locking between the upper cover and the frame is done by hinge parts (not numbered) and the locking between the lower cover and the frame is done by projection and locking arm (not numbered) as seen in figure 2.

For claim 8, the frame has an upper compartment and lower compartment (figure 5, upper surface and lower surface of the substrate 61 of circuit board 51),

For claim 19, the method of assembly is shown wherein the electrical components are mounted in the upper and lower compartments and connectors 117, 103 in the upper and lower compartments are configured for connection to electrical wires. The figures also disclose positioning of upper and lower covers. For claims 20-24, fuses, circuit breakers, connector contacts, and locking arrangements are disclosed in figures 1-6.

4. Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamill et al. (US 5,207,587).

Hamill et al. in figures 1-7, discloses an electrical fuse box, comprising a frame 28, 30, 32, a plurality of connector modules 38, pre-assembled within the frame, the connector modules are configured for electrically engaging wires 52, an upper cover 26 and a lower cover 24. For claim 2 and 9, fuses and circuit breakers are shown at 12, 14 and 16, some of the fuses are capable of being J-fuses (no structure of J-fuses disclosed), for claims 3, 4, 10 and 11, the connector contacts are seen in figure 3, the contacts make connection with electrical components 70 (only upper side component shown).

For claim 8, the frame has an upper compartment and lower compartment (figure 3, upper surface and lower surface of the substrate 28),

For claim 19, the method of assembly is shown wherein the electrical components are mounted in the upper and lower compartments and connectors in the upper and lower compartments are configured for connection to electrical wires. The figures also disclose positioning of upper and lower covers. For claims 20-22, fuses, circuit breakers, connector contacts are disclosed in figures 1-7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7, 14-18 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maue et al. (US 5,995,380).

Maue et al. discloses the claimed invention except for hinge arrangement between the lower cover and the frame. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide hinge arrangement between the lower cover and the frame, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's invention. Hamill (US5,831,814), Borzi et al. (US 6,077,102), Smith et al. (US 6,126,457), Yanase et al. (US 5,755,579), Detter et al. (US 5,023,752), Depp et al. (US 6,570,088),

Art Unit: 2839

Matsuoka (US 6,152,758), White (US 4,749,359), and Harwood et al. (US 6,683,950) all disclose fuse box.

Applicant also should consider these references in response to this office action. Should issue arise concerning the rejection presented above, these references may be relied upon in a subsequent action to support the lack of novelty or obviousness of claimed subject matter to one of ordinary skill in the art.

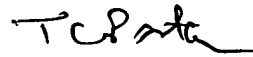
Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to T. C. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2098. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 271-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2839

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



T. C. Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

Tcp
June 20, 2004